

5 What is claimed is:

1. A cantilever liftgate comprising an opposing pair of side plates, an extension plate extending between the side plates, a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates and a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame wherein the liftgate is configured to be secured only to a vehicle body.

2. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the liftgate is fully assembled prior to being secured to the vehicle body.

3. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the liftgate is configured to be secured to the vehicle body by bolts or welding.

4. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the side plates further comprise formed steps.

5. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the side plates further comprise a formed bracket for mounting a hydraulic pump.

6. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the side plates further comprise formed dock impact bumpers.

7. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the side plates further comprise formed brackets for mounting vehicle lights.

8. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the lift frame comprises a lift frame tube configured to function as an underride guard.

5 9. The liftgate of claim 1, wherein the liftgate is configured to stack with a similar liftgate.

10 10. A cantilever liftgate secured to a vehicle body comprising an opposing pair of side plates, an extension plate extending between the side plates, a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to the side plates and a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame wherein the liftgate is secured to the vehicle body.

15 11. The liftgate of claim 10 wherein the liftgate is secured to the vehicle body by bolts.

20 12. The liftgate of claim 10 wherein the liftgate is secured to the vehicle body prior to the vehicle body being secured to a vehicle chassis.

25 13. The liftgate of claim 10, wherein the liftgate is fully assembled and tested prior to being secured to the vehicle body.

30 14. The liftgate of claim 10 wherein said liftgate further comprises a lower horizontal frame member which is attached to the vehicle body upon securing said liftgate to said vehicle body.

35 15. A pre-assembled unitary liftgate configured to be secured to a vehicle body comprising:

40 a) an opposing pair of side plates, a trunnion tube extending between the side plates and an extension plate extending between the side plates, wherein the side plates and the extension plate are configured to be secured to the vehicle body;

45 b) a lift frame having an opposing pair of parallelogram linkages each having upper and lower arms and proximal and distal pivot members and a lift frame

5 tube extending between the lower arms, wherein the proximal pivot members are secured to the trunnion tube;

d) a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the distal pivot members, having a stop configured to prevent rotation of the liftgate platform away from the upper and lower arms past a generally horizontal orientation parallel with the vehicle
10 body and configured to allow rotation of the liftgate platform toward the upper and lower arms to a generally vertical position perpendicular with the vehicle body when in a lowered position;

e) an hydraulic cylinder pivotally secured at one end to the trunnion tube and at the other end to the lift frame tube; wherein,

15 when the liftgate platform is rotated to the horizontal orientation extension of the hydraulic cylinder raises the liftgate platform from a lowered position to a raised position while maintaining the horizontal orientation and when the liftgate platform is rotated to the vertical position extension of the hydraulic cylinder raises and inverts the liftgate platform into a stowed position.